

Copy of letter to Adenauer
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October 16, 1961

Dear Chancellor Adenauer:

The threat to the Alliance arising out of Soviet pressure on Berlin requires that our two nations and the North Atlantic Alliance move quickly and decisively to improve our military strength. I believe it would be timely and appropriate for consultations between our two governments on a wide range of defense matters to make sure the actions we are taking to strengthen NATO's defenses are both adequate and fully coordinated. If you agree, within the next few days, I will send Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric to Bonn, who, accompanied by Ambassador Dowling, will undertake discussions with your representatives. Secretary Gilpatric, as my personal representative, will be prepared to explain in detail U. S. preparedness measures and to outline U. S. views on joint preparedness actions required of our two nations and the Alliance.

My government, as you know, is increasing substantially both its non-nuclear and its nuclear military strength. Preparations are underway for the deployment to Germany, if required, of up to six additional U. S. divisions, accompanied by major tactical air support. My government is determined to take whatever actions are required for our security and the security of the Alliance. We trust that other governments within the Alliance will do the same, and I hope I can count on your support in urging the others to do so with determination and dispatch.

I need not emphasize the importance of the defense measures to be taken by the Federal Republic. A major strengthening of Federal Republic forces is essential to the successful deterrence of Communist aggression in Europe.

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By <i>903m</i> NARS, Date <i>2/11/83</i>

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As one means of facilitating the German build-up and improving our combined military strength, my government has been exploring measures for improving the logistics capability of the German armed forces in addition to measures already under discussion in Bonn. The United States has over the years developed a comprehensive logistics system to support our forces in Europe. We are prepared to share this system, to the maximum practicable extent, with the Federal Republic. The cooperative logistics system we are contemplating should substantially improve our combined capabilities. Secretary Gilpatric will be prepared to discuss this matter in detail.

Since the beginning of my administration, our government has increased its defense budget by \$6 billion, including \$3.5 billion appropriated by the Congress last July, after my message on the need for preparedness measures looking toward a crisis over Berlin. The United States is prepared to shoulder these additional build-up costs and more, if necessary, but we must at the same time take measures to minimize the adverse impact on our balance of payments of our international security programs. In other words, our problem is not budgetary but balance of payments. We look to the Federal Republic to work out with us arrangements to insure that U.S. military expenditures in Germany do not drain foreign exchange reserves from the U.S. to Germany.

I believe, Mr. Chancellor, that immediate action on these measures to strengthen NATO's defenses will provide persuasive evidence of our determination to fight to preserve the freedom of the people of West Berlin and our rights there.

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In view of the urgency of this matter, I have asked Ambassador Dowling to deliver this message to you personally and to make the necessary plans for these meetings.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Dr. Konrad Adenauer,
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of
Germany
Bonn, Germany

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